

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 MCT-01 DHA-02 ACDA-10 COME-00 /083 W

-----112619 060955Z /15

R 051338Z AUG 77

FM AMCONSUL BELFAST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1743

INFO AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMCONSUL EDINBURGH

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USNAVCOMMSTA LONDONDERRY

UNCLAS BELFAST 249

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, PINT, UK, EI

SUBJECT: TERRORISM: ULSTER TENSION GROWS AS ROYAL
VISIT APPROACHES

1. STORES AND OFFICES IN LISBURN AND BELFAST WERE TARGETS OF 19 INCENDIARY DEVICES NIGHT AUGUST 4-5. ELEVEN FIRES CAUSED SERIOUS DAMAGE AND EXTENDED FIRE SERVICES FROM SEVERAL COMMUNITIES. BLITZ IS SEEN AS PROVISIONAL IRA DEMONSTRATION OF CAPABILITY LESS THAN WEEK BEFORE HER MAJESTY AND DUKE OF EDINBURGH ARRIVE FOR JUBILEE VISIT AUGUST 10 AND 11. HILLSBOROUGH CASTLE, SCENE OF LARGEST (4000) RECEPTION AUGUST 10 IS FOUR MILES FROM LISBURN. SMALLER RECEPTION FOR YOUTH IS SCHEDULED FOR NEW UNIVERSITY OF ULSTER NEAR COLERAINE AUGUST 11 AND TOKEN (ONE POUND) BOMB WAS FOUND AND DEFUSED ON CAMPUS LAST WEEK. THERE TWO SMALLER RECEPTIONS SCHEDULED FOR ROYAL YACHT WHERE ROYAL PARTY WILL RESIDE DURING VISIT.

2. PROVISIONAL SINN FEIN HAS ANNOUNCED PLANS TO MOUNT SERIES OF " PEACEFUL" PROTESTS IN BELFAST, LONDONDERRY,
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LURGAN AND DUNGANNON. BELFAST PROTEST WILL INCLUDE ATTEMPT TO MARCH TO CITY HALL AT SAME TIME QUEEN' S RECEPTION IS SCHEDULED IN HILLSBOROUGH. ULSTER DEFENSE ASSOCIATION AND LOYALIST ASSOCIATION OF WORKERS HAVE ANNOUNCED INTENT TO RALLY AT CITY HALL AT SAME TIME TO DEMONSTRATE PROVINCE' S LOYALTY TO HER AMJESTY. PROVISIONAL SINN FEIN WILL USE OCCASION TO MARK ANNIVERSARY OF INTERNMENT

(AUGUST 9, 1971) AND MARCH IS SEEN AS ATTEMPT TO RECOVER SYMPATHY LOST IN 1976 DEMONSTRATION WHEN PROPERTY DESTRUCTION WAS EXTENSIVE BUT CONFINED TO REPUBLICAN AREAS. PROBABILITY OF CLASHES BETWEEN SECURITY FORCES AND PROVISIONAL MARCHERS NOW AUGMENTED BY PROBABILITY CLASHES BETWEEN PROVISIONALS AND LOYALISTS. SOME FOUR HUNDRED NEWSMEN EXPECTED IN PROVINCE FOR JUBILEE VISIT.

3. CONSENSUS SPECULATION BELFAST IS THAT PROVISIONALS WILL ATTEMPT GAIN MAXIMUM PUBLICITY AND SYMPATHY DURING VISIT. POSSIBILITY VIOLENCE DIRECTED AGAINST ROYAL PARTY CONSIDERED VERY REMOTE BUT DEMONSTRATION PROVISIONAL " MILITARY CAPABILITY" WITH EXPLOSIVES NOT RPT NOT EXCLUDED. CONGEN HAS HEARD ONE RUMOR OF " TWO BOMB SALUTE," ONE ON EACH SIDE OF BELFAST LOUGH, TO COINCIDE WITH PASSAGE ROYAL YACHT.

4. SECURITY PRECAUTIONS ELABORATE. POLICE, UDR AND ARMY VERY THICK ON GROUND IN BELFAST AREA. ALL POLICE AND ARMY LEAVE CANCELED DURING VISIT. MORE THAN SEVEN THOUSAND MEN AND WOMEN OF THE ELEVEN BATTALIONS OF THE ULSTER DEFENSE REGIMENT (UDR) WILL BE CALLED UP FOR FULL-TIME DUTY FOR UP TO WEEK BEGINNING AUGUST 6. THE 500 TROOPS OF SPEARHEAD BATTALION, CURRENTLY 1ST BATTALION SCOTS GUARDS, WILL BE FLOWN IN. ESTIMATED SECURITY STRENGTH WILL BE MORE THAN 14,000 REGULAR TROOPS, THE SPEARHEAD BATTALION, UNCLASSIFIED

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UDR 7820, ROYAL ULSTER CONSTABULARY 5,400, RUC RESERVE 4,616 FOR TOTAL MORE THAN 32,000.

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Message Attributes

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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770282-0807
Format: TEL
From: BELFAST
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770895/aaaadbvk.tel
Line Count: 98
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Litigation History:
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